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We are a Virginia Company and can give you the best that money can buy
in Life Insurance. Guaranteed by our Mother State, "VIRGINIA," to be as
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at Richmond, as a guarantee and protection to Policy Holders. Our record
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1. Why is it that the Union Central while its premiums are low, can pay
the largest dividends?
1st. Because the company is choicer in selecting its risks. Consequence:
2nd. Because for twenty years it has realized the highest interest rate.2. With what result?
We furnish maximum insurance at minimum cost.
Before taking Life Insurance write for rates in the great Policy-holder
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THE OYSTER.

The oyster, 'the succulent oyster!'
The oyster is with us again,
The fry that's our boast,
The broil and the roast,
The raw box beloved of men.
Give cheers for return of the oyster.
And give them with twenty times ten.
The oyster, the fine, toothsome oyster,
The wealth of the Chesapeake's deeps,
Whose flavor and taste,
To the feast make us haste,
And the soul of the epicure steeps
In joy when he sees there the oyster
In dainty, delectable heaps.

The oyster, the fat, juicy oyster!
The standby of Baltimore homes,
The first at the feast,
Both of greatest and least,
And served 'neath the stateliest domes,
None here in the Maryland city
Its equal finds, far though he roams.

The oyster, hurrah for the oyster!
May its season no shortages mar!
The half-shell we hail,
The stew and cocktail,
And the steamed, that are always
'bove par;
Then here's to the king's feast, the
oyster,
That's come with the months with the
"R."
—Baltimore American.

BIRDS OF PREY FARMERS' ALLIES.

Household Cat Responsible For
Many Deeds Blamed On Hawks,
Etc.

While conservation in all of its
branches is being carried on throughout
the United States in a most satisfactory
manner, the farmers of the South have,
at the same time, neglected many things
right at their own door that mean an
annual loss to them of many thousands
of hard-earned dollars. One of these is
the perpetual slaughtering of many
species of birds and animals that could
be used in many branches of human en-
deavor if only their lives were spared.

A. K. Fisher, in charge of economic
investigation in the department of
agriculture, has recently made a study
along this line and has just made an
interesting report on the subject.
Many an innocent hawk, says Mr.
Fisher, skunk, owl and weasel have been
shot for the deeds of that slick high-
wayman—the house cat. It is safe to
say that this marauder, which enjoys all
the comforts and protection of home,
destroys in the aggregate more wild
birds and young poultry than all the
native natural enemies combined. A
cat has been known to kill a whole
brood of chickens in a day, a feat un-
equalled by any predaceous animal, with
the possible exception of the mink.

Others in the course of a season have
practically destroyed whole coveys of
quail or grouse, or nest full of young
songsters. A well known naturalist es-
timates that in the New England States
alone 1,500,000 birds are destroyed an-
nually by cats.

The offender is not so often the well
fed household pet as it is the abandoned
and neglected outcast. In 1905 the
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty
to Animals in New York City killed
monthly an average of 6,000 sick, injured
or homeless cats—a total for the year
of over 70,000.

The fox, from its occasional misdeeds,
is looked upon by the majority of man-
kind as a deep-dyed villain that deserves
his entire time to robbery and derives
all his forage from the chickenyard or
duckpen. As a matter of fact, even in
localities where foxes are abundant, it
is comparatively rare that poultry is
destroyed by them. The mink feeds on
fish, cray-fish, mussels, birds and, like
the weasel, is indefatigable in its search
for meadow mice and other marsh-loving
rodents. It is very fond of muskrat and
one of its most important services to
man is the destruction of these pests
about mill-dams, canals and dykes,
where their burrows undermine the
embankment and cause disastrous
overflows.

The weasel is one of nature's most
efficient checks upon the hordes of
meadow mice and other rodents which
at times destroy forage crops, orchards,
vineyards and garden produce. It feeds
also upon rabbits, squirrels and birds,
and in many sections its occasional in-
roads on the poultry yard have brought
it into serious disrepute. It is, of course,
desirable to kill particular individuals
which have acquired the poultry habit,
but farmers and horticulturists will
make a mistake if they systematically
destroy weasels.

The sooner the farmers, ranch-men,
horticulturists and nurserymen learn that
the great majority of birds of prey are
their friends and deserve protection,
and that four or five species only are
injurious, the sooner will depredations
by noxious rodents and insects diminish.
In the more thickly settled sections of
the country, except at rare intervals,
the goosehawk, duckhawk and great
horned owl, are so infrequent that
years may pass without an individual
being seen. Two species that need to be
kept in check are the sharp-shinned and
Cooper hawks, small and medium sized
species, which feed almost entirely on
wild birds and poultry.

The important fact to bear in mind is
that all hawks and owls feed largely on
noxious rodents and the larger insects,
such as grasshoppers, crickets and may-
beetles, from their size and voracious
appetites, are important factors in re-
ducing the numbers of such pests and
keeping them under control.

The annual loss of crops by insects
and mammal pests in the United States
amounts to many millions of dollars.

Moreover, not only is this loss not di-
minishing, but, on the contrary, it is
steadily increasing, partly as a result of
the encroachment of new insect enemies,
partly from the increase of both insect
and rodent pests—for the number of
these naturally grow with the extension
of tillage—and partly, perhaps mainly,
because of the destruction of their nat-
ural enemies. These, instead of being
permitted to keep pace with the mul-
tiplication of the pests upon which they
feed, have been destroyed until their
numbers are entirely inadequate to pre-
serve the balance. It is, therefore, of
first importance that the farmer and
stockman should, everywhere, seek to
protect and encourage the natural foes
of injurious mammals and insects.

ALLIGATORS GUARD WATERMELONS.

Eastern Shore Farmer Has Novel
Police Force.

Here is a humorous story that comes
via Cape Charles. It may be true, but
alligators big enough to tackle pickanin-
ies or live on high and dry land are
phenomenal to this section. We
wonder what the owner and his helpers
do to keep out their maws when in-
vading the patch? Perhaps the allies
are trained to know homefolks. All
this reminds us of the old scheme of
spreading the news that some few
melons in a patch had been injected
with strychnine, which fake worked for
awhile on the Tidewater negro.

But here goes the Eastern Shore story:
Edward Thompson's watermelon plan-
tation, near Hornstown, a few miles
distant from Cape Charles, is policed
by alligators.

One of these alligators last night
caught John Ellison, a negro youth
eleven years old, in the act of lifting a
juicy red-heart from the vine. The
alligator seized the boy by the leg and
held him fast. The young negro's
screams brought Thompson running
from the house. He took the thief into
custody and delivered him over to the
county authorities.

This remarkable case is the only one
of its kind on record.

Thompson has one of the largest
watermelon plantations in Virginia and
ships many thousands of melons each
season to Northern cities. The negroes
living in the neighborhood have been
unable to resist the temptation con-
stantly before them. In recent years
the depredations of his colored neighbors
in the Thompson melon patches have
cost Thompson several thousands of
dollars. He determined to put a stop
to the thefts.

Last spring Thompson had a number
of alligators shipped to his farm from
Florida. The varmints were established
in the melon patches and their presence
was widely advertised to the negro
population.

Until last night no colored man ven-
tured into the Thompson patches this
season. Then came along John Ellison.
The boy saw the ripe, green rinds gleam-
ing in the silvery moonlight. He was
fascinated. The allurements were too
strong. The boy says he was drawn
by an uncontrollable desire to become
possessed of just one.

He ran swiftly to the edge of the
patch, his expert eye selected a choice
red-heart, and, stooping stealthily, he
jerked the melon from the vine. He
was lifting it aloft exultantly when
something like the jaws of a steel trap
closed suddenly upon his right leg.

He looked down and was horrified to
find his dusky skin held fast in the jaws
of the alligator. Ellison dropped the
stolen melon and set up a howl that was
audible a half mile away.

A few minutes later Farmer Thomp-
son was marching him off to the county
lock-up.

The negro was given a hearing before
a county magistrate this morning. The
squire decided to release the boy be-
cause of his tender years and the fact
that he was already punished by the
alligator. His leg will be sore for a
month.

THE FIRST GUN.

If the speech of Mr. Summers at
Staunton is a fair sample of the style
of campaigning to be adopted by the
Virginia Republicans, it is safe to pre-
dict that the more numerous the Re-
publican orators the more decisive will
be the Democratic majority.

By the way the indications are that
the brunt of the battle is to be borne
by the Federal office holders and that
the Administration at Washington is to
furnish spell-binders from the Federal
departments to boost the cause of Mr.
Kent. All of which goes to show that
for all Mr. Taft's professions he will
follow the beaten track in allowing the
hiring of the Government to use the
time paid for by the public money in
advancing the interests of a party, and
that he will lend his official influence
to efforts to control a State election in
which no Federal positions are to be
filled. It begins to look as though the
President was more of a practical poli-
tician than a civil service reformer.
—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

THE BRIGHT SIDE.

If you should look at the bright side
And I should look at the dark,
Though you were as poor as a little
church mouse
And I owned a horse and carriage and
house,
You'd be richer than I, for mark—
You'd be happy with simple pleasures,
While I was counting my woes,
Moody and sour and all forlorn,
Blind to beauty and finding a thorn
Where you were finding a rose.

There'd never be a gleam of sunshine
But you would enjoy its light,
While I should watch with an anxious
gaze
For clouds to rise on the clearest days
In a sky serene and bright.

When troubled by cares and vexations
That fall to the happiest lot
I'd frown and fret, but you would beguile
The weary hours with a cheerful smile
Till trials were all forgot.

Yes, if you had not a possession
And I had the wealth of a king
You'd be richer than I with your blessed
sight
That could always behold the side that
is bright,
No matter what life might bring.
—Selected.

FALL CAMPAIGN TO BE A HUMMER.

Probably One as Bitterest Contests
In State's Recent History

MUCH BRILLIANT ORATORY.
Democratic and Republican leaders
throughout the State are preparing in
a quiet way to open the fall campaign
with a flourish of trumpets, about the
middle of the present month, indica-
tions being that much brilliant oratory
will be displayed on both sides.

The Democrats will have their head-
quarters in Richmond, as usual, while
The Republicans will most likely hold
forth in Roanoke. The contest prom-
ises to be one of the bitterest in the
recent history of politics in Virginia.
There are those that say that not only
will the Republicans use all the matter
brought out by Mr. Tucker against
Judge Mann in the recent primary, but
that they will undertake to produce
further alleged correspondence between
Judge Mann and General Mahone, with
the view of injuring the chances of the
former for election as Governor.

So far as can be learned, however,
the Democrats are prepared for any
emergency, having prepared their guns
for whatever kind of battle the oppo-
sition may choose to wage.

It is claimed that the record of the
dominant party in the State is clean
and that there has been no scandal in any
department during its long incumbency
in power, which has not been promptly
unearthed, and that the promises made
to the people have been faithfully car-
ried out. One of the strongest leaders
of the Democracy in the State says
that the party is in good shape, being
ready, if any ugly attack should be
made upon it or its nominees by the
Republicans, to make an onslaught upon
the minority throughout the State which
the latter will not soon forget. He said
further that the Democrats have some
slender cards, which they will produce
if an ugly game should be provoked,
and which would make the Republican
leaders sit up and take notice.

All this fiery preliminary sparring
means, in the judgment of leaders on
both sides, some heavy scrapping prior
to the general election in November.
The ablest orators in both camps will
be thrown into the contest. For the
Democrats, there will be Governor
Swanson, Senators Daniel and Martin,
all the members of Congress from the
State, the nominees on the State ticket,
as well as other orators of distinction
before the people.

The Republicans will not only have
the benefit of all their home talent on
the stump, but it is said that they will
be assisted in a large measure by the
administration and its orators.

The Democratic managers express
themselves as absolutely confident of
a victory for the State ticket, which
will not fall far below those won by
the party in recent years, while the
Republicans, as a rule, assert that
they will at least be able to make great
inroads, if not defeat some part of
the ticket. It is regarded as settled that
the Democrats will elect their State
ticket as a whole by a safe majority,
winning at the same time a large ma-
jority in the House of Delegates. With
the exception of filling two vacancies,
there will be no election of Senators
this fall, the members of the upper
branch of the General Assembly having
been chosen in 1907 for a period of four
years. The Senate is overwhelmingly
Democratic.

ENGLISH LEGAL PROMPTNESS.

What Shakespeare would have said
of "the law's delay" in this country
cannot be known, but he set down that
as a cause for suicide, vice Ham-
let's soliloquy. But if complaint was
made then that delay in judicial trans-
actions would be likely to drive a man
to frenzy, it is hard to say what might
happen here now.

A writer in McClure's Magazine on
"The Efficiency of English Law" quotes
some cases he had cognizance of that
illustrate the practical nature of
English courts. He tells of a case
where a wife was on trial for the killing
of her husband. The evidence showed
that both had good reputations for char-

acter, that they were seldom intoxi-
cated, nor had they any quarrel or
estrangement previously. At the time
of the killing however both were intoxi-
cated, the husband applying to his wife
a vile epithet and she seizing a poker
struck him, with fatal results. A large
number of witnesses were examined,
the expert testimony of surgeons taken,
the addresses of the attorneys made,
the elaborations of the judge, explaining
the various grades of homicidal crime,
stated; yet all this occupied the time of
the court from start to finish less than
two hours.

In another case a man indicted for
murder pleaded guilty. The judge
carefully reviewed the testimony as
given before the grand jury, the accused
made a long statement, and sentence
was pronounced in less than 47 minutes.
Still another case is related where the
delay of the jury is commented on as
peculiar, they having been out nine
minutes. As a rule the jury does not
leave the box, but makes up the verdict
then and there. In England it is the
judge and not the attorney who raises
objections to questions, and a lawyer at-
tempting to lead a witness into a false
issue is at once checked by the judge.
If the remarks of the lawyer seem not
to the point he is brought around at
once by the bench—a custom which
might be useful with us. In no instance,
says this writer, did he hear a case
argued for over twenty minutes by an
attorney. In civil cases, rapidity of
movement was conspicuous. In this
court defendants state their own cases,
attorneys not being often employed, and
the judge settles such cases at the rate
of about one for each five minutes.
Such proceedings are in fact a sort of
informal arbitration. All extraneous
topics are shut out of the case.

Commenting on the above subject the
Chicago Tribune states that England
and Wales employ only ninety-two
judges to a population of 32,000,000,
while the State of Illinois, with a popu-
lation of 4,800,000 has a total of 241
judges, and gets little done at that. That
is, it takes more than two-and-a-half
as many judges for Illinois' 4,800,000,
as for England and Wales' 32,000,000.
If Hamlet thought that something was
rotten in the State of Denmark, what
should be thought of Illinois' legal
doings?

RESOLUTION

Of Wright-Latane Camp Con-
federate Veterans.At a meeting of Wright-Latane Camp,
U. C. V., the following resolutions
were adopted:

Resolved, That this camp return
heartfelt thanks to the Wheaton band
for their delightful music at the unveil-
ing of the Essex monument August 25,
1909. We all thought it delightful and
we cannot give expression to our feeling
of gratitude and pleasure.

Resolved, That we tender our heart-
felt thanks to W. McDonald Lee, Chair-
man Board of Fisheries, for his unselfish
and untiring services in making the
unveiling of the Essex Confederate
monument a great success—from start
to finish, first to last, he rendered ser-
vices that could not be dispensed with.
Mr. Lee, the officers and crews of the
Commodore Maury and Accomac were
strenuous and patriotic and this Camp
and people thank them.

Resolved, That we render heartfelt
thanks to the Lancaster Confederate
Choir, and Mrs. J. Griff Edwards, Major
General Confederate Choir, for the stir-
ring war songs beautifully rendered at
the unveiling of the Essex Confederate
Monument. They inspired and enthused
us and we can truly say we are glad we
were "born in Dixie."

Resolved, That this camp points
with pleasure and pride to the officers
(Capt. Enoch R. Gale and Lt. Mitchell,
Waring and Heche) and men of Co. B,
4th Regt. Va. Vols., (Norfolk City
Guards) who honored us with their
presence in the unveiling of the Essex
Confederate Monument at Tappahan-
nock August 25, 1909—also to the officer
(Lt. O. W. Scharsh) and men of Battery
B. 1st Bat., Field Artillery attached to
the monument. Not only was their soldierly
bearing, drill and discipline greatly ad-
mired by us—not only did they give
ECLAT to the occasion by their parade
and preserve order and decorum in the
ceremony, but in mixing with our peo-
ple, demonstrated their gentlemanly
and chivalrous qualities. They contrib-
uted more than we can express to the
occasion by their parade military salutes,
cannon and rifle.

T. R. B. WRIGHT, Commander,
WM. CAMPBELL, Adjutant.

TO KILL SPARROWS.

A method of getting rid of the English
sparrow pests is described by a poultry
breeder, whose yards were visited by
the sparrows in such numbers as to
seriously interfere with his profits. He
fastened a small box about four inches
deep, on a post five feet high, placed
just outside of his poultry yard. This
box he kept supplied with poisoned chick
feed. The sparrows entered cordially
into the new feeding program and sev-
eral hundred of them left bodily testi-
monials to the palatability of the food.
—Indiana Farmer.

Night On Bald Mountain.

On a lonely night Alex. Benton of Fort Edward,
N. Y., climbed Bald Mountain to the home of a
neighbor, tortured by Asthma, bent on curing
him with Dr. King's New Discovery, that had
cured himself of asthma. This wonderful medi-
cine soon relieved and quickly cured his neighbor.
Later he cured his son's wife of a severe lung
trouble. Millions believe it is the greatest throat
and lung cure on Earth. Coughs, Croup,
Hemorrhages and Sore Lungs are surely cured
by it. Best for Hay Fever, Grip and Whooping
Cough. 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free. Guar-
anteed by all druggists.

THE OLD-TIME SINGER.

We liked the old-time meetings—on Jordan's
banks to stand
And cast a wistful eye far-off into the
promised land;
The old songs of salvation—salvation full
an' free,
That great old tune: "Amazin' grace,
that saved a wretch like me!"
I recollect them, old sweet hymns that
used to float so high,
They seemed to shake the windows in
the everlastin' sky!
For when we heard the preacher say:
"Some brother raise the tune,"
We always knew "Amazin' grace" was
comin' mighty soon!
Somehow, the new style singin' is rather
out my line,
Although they sometimes lines it out
an' axes folks ter jine,
I lose my voice completely, an' with a
kind o' sigh
Seek Jordan's stormy banks of old,
where my possessions lie!
There's more than folks imagine, I tell
you, in a song,
It's still the same old gospel, but they
try to twist it wrong:
Leastways, the old folks think so; but
what's the use to sigh?
So long as it's the Gospel, we'll get
there by an' by!
—F. L. STANTON, in Atlanta Constitution.

TUCKER SPENT MORE THAN MANN.

Cost Valley Candidate \$15,829.40
to Make Race for Governor
of Virginia.

(Richmond Times-Dispatch.)
Mr. Tucker spent \$15,829.40, while
Judge Mann the successful candidate,
got through with an expenditure of
only \$11,294.30.

These statements were submitted to
the Secretary of the Commonwealth by
the candidates under the oath which is
prescribed by the Barksdale law. The
items sent out by Mr. Tucker in his
account are as follows:

Stationery, printing and postage	\$ 3,635 28
Advertising	3,508 02
Headquarters, clerical work, telegrams and telephones	5,850 90
Hall rent	285 20
Traveling expenses and hotels	750 00
Assessment fee for entering primary	1,800 00
Total	\$15,829 40

Judge Mann's Expenses.

Judge Mann's itemized statement is
as follows:
Headquarters expenses \$ 899 45
Hotel 783 75
Postage 3,274 07
Stationery and clerks 1,357 63
Stationary 416 60
Printing 906 04
Telegrams and telephones 142 23
Newspapers, extra copies 317 75
Newspapers, advertising 643 86
Newspapers, subscriptions 134 55
Traveling expenses 385 50
Expense of meetings 302 88
Assessment 1,800 00
Total \$11,294 30

Colonel Robert Catlett, of Lexington,
candidate for Attorney-General spent
\$1,862.25.
Col. Catton, defeated candidate for
lieutenant-governor, spent \$1,081, two
thirds of which were outside of the
primary assessment levied by the state
committee. The committee assessment
amounted to \$360.

Go With A Rush.

The demand for that wonderful Stomach, Liver
and Kidney cure, Dr. King's New Life Pills—is
astonishing. Druggists say they never saw a
like. It's because they never fail to cure Sour
Stomach, Constipation, Indigestion, Biliousness,
Jaundice, Sick Headache, Chills and Malaria. Only
5c. at all druggists.

NORTHUMBERLAND TEACHERS.

Wicomico district—High School, Prof.
L. C. Lindsey, principal, Miss Lois Liles-
pie, 1st assistant; Salome Stiff, 2nd
assistant, Miss Pattie L. Jones, 3rd
assistant. No. 7 Ruby M. Clarke.
Lottsburg—Piedmont, Miss Frances
B. Hatch; Stately Oak, Mrs. Eva Bur-
gess, Miss Louise Anderson; Bethany,
Miss Lula Winstead; Gibeon, Miss Alice
Dungan; Mundy Neck, Miss Julia Ash-
burne; Cherry Point, Miss Mabel A.
Long; Hendersons, Miss Annie Hargis;
Swan's, no appointments; Harry Hog-
an, Miss Eva C. Rock; Lewisetta, Miss
Mayme Ashburne.

Heathville District—H. G. Carter,
Principal; Miss Carry Norris, 1st as-
sistant; Miss Monie Kline, 2nd as-
sistant, Miss Blackwell, 3rd assistant;
Providence, Miss Martha Marsh, Lara,
Sallie B. Beacham; Corinth, E. G.
Swann; Coan Hall, Mrs. Ransom Sew-
ell; Coan, Ethel G. Owens.

Fairfields District—Reedville High
School, W. W. Barnhart, principal; Miss
Puri B. Robertson, 1st assistant; Miss
Ruth Barnhart, 2nd assistant; Miss Ver-
non Morton, 3rd assistant; Oak Grove,
Miss Laura O. Crowther; Lillian, Miss
Ruby L. Edwards; Fairport, Miss Eliz-
abeth Elder, principal, Mrs. Eva Bur-
gess, assistant; Burgess Store, principal
to be supplied; Miss Alma Brent, assist-
ant; Hull's Neck, Miss Lottie White;
Hack's Neck, Mrs. Judith Downing.